

Message Text

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT BALTSUN EDITORIAL, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, HEADED "THE U.S. TRIES AGAIN IN AFRICA."

2. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER APPLIED THE "IMPERATIVE OF OUR OWN MORAL HERITAGE" TO THE RACIAL CONFLICTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA YESTERDAY, AND WHAT EMERGED WAS A RECOMMITMENT TO IDEALS THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SULLIED IN THE FIRST PLACE. YEARS OF EQUIVOCATING ON RACIAL JUSTICE FOR PURPORTED SECURITY REASONS HAVE SERVED IN THE END ONLY TO UNDERCUT BASIC AMERICAN INTERESTS. SO MR. KISSINGER WAS AT LAST IN BLACK AFRICA, IN ZAMBIA, CLOSE TO THE ZAMBEZI RIVER CONFRONTATION LINE, TO ENUNCiate A NEW POLICY THAT OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN OLD POLICY. THE UNITED STATES, HE DECLARED, WAS FIRMLY IN SUPPORT OF "SELF DETERMINATION, MAJORITY RULE, EQUAL RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY"--IDEALS SET FORTH IN THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO OF SEVEN YEARS AGO THAT HE COMPARED TO THE DEC- UNCLASSIFIED

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LARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

3. THE KISSINGER RHETORIC WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES, FOR ALL ITS ERRORS IN AFRICA, IS STILL LOOKED UPON AS THE FIRST NATION TO HAVE THROWN OFF COLONIAL RULE. IT

IS ALSO RECOGNIZED IN SYMPATHETIC CIRCLES AS A NATION THAT IS TRYING TO DEVELOP A SOCIETY WHERE (IN MR. KISSINGER'S WORDS) "BLACKS AND WHITES LIVE TOGETHER IN HARMONY AND EQUALITY." THESE CONCEPTS ARE IMPORTANT IN A CONTINENT THAT HAS KNOWN MUCH RACIAL STRIFE AND IS THREATENED WITH MORE, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE WHITES ARE NUMEROUS AND ENTRENCHED BY THREE CENTURIES OF HISTORY.

4. YET WITH MODERATES LIKE JULIUS NYERERE AND KENNETH KAUNDA TALKING WAR; WITH MARXIST REGIMES IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA; WITH GUERRILLA ATTACKS STEPPING UP ON THE BORDERS OF RHODESIA AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA; WITH CUBAN TROOPS AND RUSSIAN ARMS AVAILABLE TO BLACK INSURGENTS--WITH ALL THESE THINGS, RHETORIC WAS NOT ENOUGH. MR. KISSINGER HAD TO PROPOSE CERTAIN ACTIONS TO REFURBISH U.S. CREDENTIALS WITH BLACK AFRICA.

5. ON RHODESIA, THE SECRETARY STATED MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER BEFORE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "UNRELENTINGLY" OPPOSED TO IAN SMITH'S WHITE REGIME IN SALISBURY AND FAVORS BLACK MAJORITY RULE ON THE TWO-YEAR BRITISH TIMETABLE. HE PROMISED BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT PERMITTING CHROME IMPORTS, AID TO RHODESIA'S BLACK-RULED NEIGHBORS, ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA AND A DIRECT U.S. DEMARCHE TO THE SMITH GOVERNMENT. BUT MOST IMPORTANT, MR. KISSINGER SAID HE WOULD ASK SOUTH AFRICA TO "USE ITS INFLUENCE IN SALISBURY TO PROMOTE A RAPID NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT."

6. INDEED, THE SUBTLE BUT PERSISTENT PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA IN MR. KISSINGER'S SPEECH MIGHT PROVE EVENTUALLY TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS BLUNT APPROACH TO THE PASSING PHENOMENON OF RHODESIA. THE SECRETARY WAS RIGHT IN GOADING PRETORIA TOWARD A DEFINITE TIMETABLE FOR NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND THE DISMANTLING OF APARTHEID, SOUTH AFRICA'S UNCLASSIFIED

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SYSTEM OF "INSTITUTIONALIZED INEQUALITY." YET IF THE UNITED STATES IS TO EXERT INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IT MUST RETAIN ITS ABILITY TO TALK TO BOTH WHITE AND BLACK REGIMES. THIS IS MORE A SOURCE OF AMERICAN STRENGTH--AND BOTH SIDES KNOW IT--THAN THE SECRETARY'S DOG-EARED WARNING THAT THE U.S. WOULD COUNTER SOVIET AND CUBAN EFFORTS TO REPEAT THEIR ANGOLAN INTRUSION ELSEWHERE. (END TEXT.) SISCO

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